



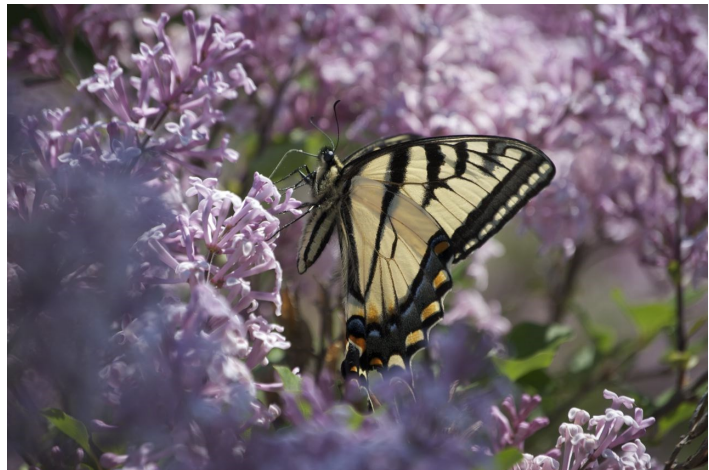
The Shining Light ~ June 2022

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SUMMER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

***Sunday, June 26
Following Outdoor
Worship Service***



WORSHIP IN JUNE

June 5th, Pentecost Sunday, on this Sunday, we will have Matt Lewellyn-Otten from OutFront Alliance to talk to us about how to be an ally for LGBTQA+ community.

June 12th, Trinity Sunday, on this Sunday, Pastor Enno will be at the Annual Meeting for the Minnesota Conference of the UCC.

June 19th, 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, on this Sunday, we will explore Paul's letter to the Galatians about how the early church struggled to come together when they there from different backgrounds, spoke different languages, and different classes.

June 26, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost, on this Sunday, we will look at the gospel of Luke and a story of the disciples of Jesus believing they had the power to call down fire from heaven to destroy the villages who did not receive Jesus. More important than there ability to do so, what was Jesus' response to those who wanted to use violence and destruction in his name? How is this in contrast to Fruits of the Spirit found the Paul's letter to the Galatians?

June's Prayer of the Month

God of sun and rain, thunder and gentle breezes. We thank you this day for the abundant life on our planet and the abundant love which is ours from you. As we go to work, do our daily chores, and take care of family and home, remind us again and again that with you all things are possible. Help us to live a life that is centered in you and open to the world around us. Be with our church as we live out our faith and share the good news. Be with our community as it strives to be a place of opportunity and neighbors helping neighbors. Be with our country as we tackle the tough challenges; give us wisdom and the courage to do what is right. Amen.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Enno Limvere

I was worried that I wouldn't survive COVID when it first swept over the nation. With my fibromyalgia, I am definitely not the epitome of a healthy person. As vaccines came about and new treatments, my worry got a little less. Being in a county that has the highest vaccination rate in the state also helped me to worry a little less. However, there are no guarantees about how life and death progresses. It appears I have survived this, as well a Kileen. For that I give thanks.

We are now in the history making pandemic with over one million people having died just in the United States alone and the cases are on the rise once again. We are still caught in this weird time of wanting to get back to 'normal' while still wanting to be careful while having no idea how we process the deaths and the disruption of our community, our country, and the world. Many of the people who died, died alone. Many of the families who lost loved ones, were not able to gather to do the normal talking, eating, and grieving together even for those who didn't die of COVID. There probably won't be a National Day of Remembrance, such as the one for September 11th or Pearl Harbor Day, though we are still living out the effects of this pandemic and will be for quite a while.

What our nation has discovered about itself in this time will also take time and effort to work through. We really didn't learn anything new, just that we haven't come as far as some believed or as I hoped. We are still a nation that puts profits over people, we still have a good portion who put their 'rights' over the health and well-being of others, and we still are a nation divided over what is the common good. They are linked together in strong ways and those bonds have not loosened. One silver lining is our service industry has gotten a little more respect and wages have gone up as people aren't flooding back to work for minimum wages.

As people of faith who are called to love our neighbor, we have work to do. We must continue to care for the least of these, to speak for those who cannot speak, and do justice on behalf of the poor and the stranger. We, as a church, cannot accomplish this work alone, but the world cannot accomplish this work without us, and without them. May we continue to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Peace
Pastor Enno

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

By Jenny Delfs

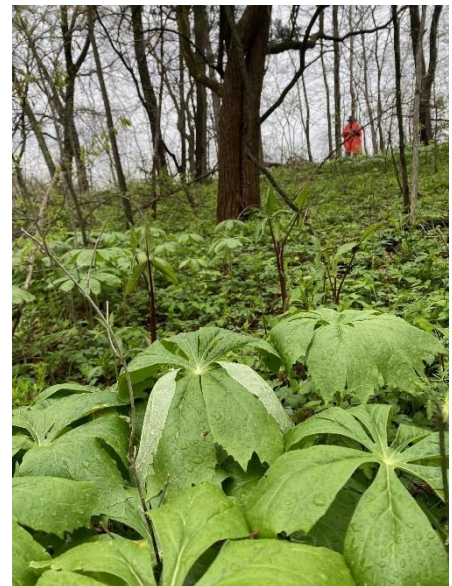
In April, my brother who lives in Seattle posted a photo of his neighborhood street. Grass so green it hurt my eyes. Pink blossoms on trees. The view from my window was shades of gray and white as it had been for months. I had some time off coming up. I booked a ticket. I wandered his Queen Anne neighborhood for hours soaking in colors. He took me to a magical courtyard of ancient blooming cherry trees on the UW campus. It was snowing again when I came home but my heart was warmed.

In May, Jeff and I took our little camper to his cousin's farm in Illinois and stomped in the early spring wet hardwood timber searching for elusive morel mushrooms and spring ephemerals. I saw an indigo bunting on a blooming redbud tree and took a grateful breath.

Spring is taking its own sweet time this year. I'm trying to follow its lead. The garden is going in slower. There are waterfalls to see. The redstart on my yellow forsythia wants me to watch him dance. There was a college graduation to attend. A dance recital. Covid is still among us, making everything a little harder, less certain.

I hope over the next months in church too we can take our sweet time. We have continued to be nimble and adjust to changing Covid realities working together. We have important conversations and plans to make... but we also need to take a breath and look around and see all the good.

I am grateful for this congregation. We can be a balm for each other in challenging times.



SUMMER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2022

Save the date. Our summer Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, June 26, after the 10:30 worship service. Business will include election of the 2022-23 Board of Directors, review of finances, and hear Committee updates. On that note, please have committee reports and articles to Nancy Backlund in the office no later than [June 15th](#) for the Annual Meeting Report

Watch the weekly email for further details and final agenda. Let the office know if you need that information mailed to you.

Contact any Board member if you have specific concerns or any items you would like added to the agenda. We are also still looking for anyone interested in joining the Board during this important time.

Proposed agenda for 2022 Summer congregational meeting Grand Marais First Congregational UCC

Sunday June 26, 2022, after worship

On zoom or in person TBD – depending on Covid transmission rate

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Mission Statement and Open and Affirming Statement
4. Procedure review
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Approval of Winter January 2022 congregational meeting minutes
7. Listing of committees and teams – invites to join - see below
8. Treasurer Report – Kevin LeVoir
9. Moderator report – Jenny Delfs
10. Pastor Report – Enno Limvere
11. Elections to Board of Directors– 4 seats
12. Closing Prayer/Adjournment

Conversations about creation of new/revised mission statement after formal meeting and forming a discovery team to work on this.

Listing of committees/teams:

1. Board of Directors – 7 members -elected for 2-year terms
2. Pastoral Relations -meets monthly with pastor
3. Finance – meets monthly with treasurer
4. Stewardship – meets as needed – fall pledge campaign
5. Building and Grounds – meeting monthly
6. Food Team – as needed for events
7. Worship – meets monthly
8. Children and Youth Life/faith formation – meet monthly
9. Memorial – meets as needed
- 10.Outreach – no ongoing meetings but driven by events
- 11.Care Team - inactive
- 12.Grievance - if called
13. WOW - needs members as 2022 could be a busier season

SUBMITTED Minutes from the Winter 2022 Congregational Annual Meeting to be approved at our Summer 2022 Congregational Annual Meeting

MINUTES FROM WINTER UCC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 30, 2022

WELCOMING AND REVIEW OF PROCEDURES FOR THE MEETING

Moderator Jenny Delfs called the zoom video meeting to order at approx. 1120 hours. Jenny welcomes all in attendance and read the Congregational Purpose & Mission Statement.

Rules of the meeting were explained by the Moderator. She said the procedures will be overseen by Kevin. Vote was to be determined by simple majority of members attending. With no formal membership records existing, Jenny stated our practice has been that those who affirm the mission and purpose of this church and consider themselves to be members of the church, may participate in voting. She said this policy is “consistent with the beliefs” of this church.

Determination was made that a quorum existed for the current meeting to proceed

CALL TO ORDER

Outline of meeting given by Jenny

Opening Prayer given by Pastor Enno asking for the Lord to lead us in wisdom and be with us in our actions this day.

Communications agreement read by Jenny

Jenny presents agenda, agenda is shown on screen, agenda approved by vote.

Minutes were approved from previous summer meeting in June of 2021, and Winter meeting in January of 2021, with some minor edits

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2021

Kevin gave the Finance Report, the balance statement for end of the year 2021, was reviewed. Then the profit and loss page was presented, this showed approximately \$150,000 had been spent, which was about \$14,000, more than what was taken in. Reserves were used to cover those expenses. Repaying a \$10,000 loan we received last fall from the government was also discussed. Kevin felt there was a chance we would have this debt forgiven by the government.

Proposed budget of \$153,000 was presented, minor amendments were made in five categories. Kevin did not anticipate the need to take more money out of the endowment account, which has a current market value of about \$198,000, but said there was a possibility this might be necessary.

The loan for the roof was discussed and the fact it would be beneficial if the church could make efforts to pay some of the balance early to reduce the interest. Kevin said the interest rate, currently at 5%, had recently been renegotiated to a more favorable rate but could not be done again for two years.

Budget was approved by vote of members

VOTE ON CHANGE TO CALLED PASTOR

Jenny gave a summary timeline of previous pastors at this church leading up to the Board of Directors designating a Search Team who hired Pastor Enno as a Designated Term Pastor in 2022, under a two-year contract. Based on his successful performance the first year of the contract, the board felt it was now appropriate to offer Pastor Enno a permanent Called Pastor position. Unlike a Term Pastor, this action requires approval of the congregation.

A motion was made by Don Davidson and seconded by Nancy Starr that we proceed with this action. An overwhelming approval was reflected in the vote of the membership.

Jenny welcomes Called Pastor Limvere who accepts the mandate (God Rest His Soul)

BOD 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by Moderator Delfs who begins by announcing in June she will be stepping down from her position as moderator but will continue as a member of the board. She appealed to the congregation to search their hearts as we consider a replacement for this position.

Jenny continues with an overview of board activities in the past year, stating we strived in a time of pandemic, to deal with the challenges and to remain vibrant and encouraged by the works being done. Specifically noted were board actions involving the successful hiring of a new Called Pastor, passing necessary Bylaw changes, dealing with difficult budget situations as well as supporting building and grounds needs. We have also hired another wonderful office manager, resolved the bookkeeping situation, while still having time to welcome new members.

PASTOR REPORT

With renewed spirit Pastor Enno stated how blessed he felt to become our Called Pastor and how thankful he is to stay and continue his work. He expressed his belief that our church has changed in the past year and, as the healing continues, will continue to move forward.

BYLAW CHANGE, RE DEFINITION OF QUORUM

Current Bylaw III #2 & #4 were amended to define quorum, for purposes of calling a congregational meeting and vote determinations, as *members in attendance numbering at least 50% of the average weekly worship attendance.*

The Bylaw change was passed by overwhelming majority.

Don suggested a formal membership list be produced to determine how many “members” our church has. Considering the term “member” has been a sensitive issue, the action was not taken up at this time.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed new members who wished to formally join with us, greetings to Steve Aldrich, Bruce Tyler, and Linda Noble.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

John Bottger used this opportunity to draw our attention to all the work that has been done by Jeff Kern to keep the church building functioning at minimal expense. Many thanks to all you’ve done Jeff.

Also, John acknowledged the many needs the physical church is presently facing and will have in the future. With the help of the congregation, he is seeking a “vision,” a plan for future projects, and discussion as to how this all can be made possible. Enno added we must determine to best way to approach our needs and to raise money to address issues.

CLOSING PRAYER

Enno gave thanks to all who were involved in the process today and gave blessings to the leaders of this church and all gave their time and support to its success.

FINAL DISCUSSION

Relating to the meeting, issues were discussed shortly afterwards regarding a suggestion a mid-year review of the pastor’s performance for the first year may be needed. Also discussed was the proposal to take a more thorough look into membership situation at the church. Jenny felt the pastoral review change could be taken up at the next board meeting and wholeheartedly agreed with Pastor Enno that the membership definition issues be addressed after June of this year with a new moderator.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Marais

Board of Directors Meeting

May 18, 2022 (via ZOOM)

Attending: Jenny Delfs, Kevin LeVoir, Carol Winter, Carol Bennett, Lesaann Foris, Enno Limvere

Absent: John Bottger, Tom Yuhasey

(Votes by BOD in bold)

Call to Order 5:05pm by Jenny Delfs – She also offered to take minutes this month

Jenny read church mission statement

Joys and Concerns were shared.

Enno's question was our favorite Easter tradition.

Jenny read the communication agreement.

April minutes previously approved via email and published in May newsletter.

Meeting agenda reviewed. Added 2 items: 1-discussion of a "discovery team" to work on mission statement and 2- pride parade sponsorship. **May agenda approved**

Financial report presented by Kevin. Income meeting expenses, exceeding budget so far this year. Some losses in the endowment. On track for building use income to date. **Financial report reviewed and approved.** Complete report available in church office.

Enno has had initial discussion with a massage therapist (N. Sobanja) looking for office space – if this works, she would need space 2 days a week. Piano teacher will be leading Explorer's Club this summer, not teaching lessons.

Pastor report – no formal report this month (vacation and illness) but Enno reported on the success of the Earth Day Fair at Community Center, upcoming plans for Pride. Congregation volunteers lead last Sunday's service.

Old Business:

1. Pass through funds – Pastor search funds used to get computer needed for worship zoom, rest in general fund. All but \$500 Thanksgiving funds will be turned into food cards (Johnsons, COOP) to distribute to community members with food insecurity via food shelf, social services and direct contact. Meeting with past travelers to Chiapas re: potential use of funds yet to be scheduled.
2. Mutual ministry goals for 2022-23. Jenny would like to present BOD goals at summer meeting. Reviewed work done on this so far. Enno suggested we come up with 3 main goals. Board members are to list 3 goals – email to each other by 5/31 so can make final decision at 6/14 meeting.
3. Safe church/ abuse prevention policy refinement – in progress.
4. No news re: cemetery property.

5. No news re: possibility of vehicle charging stations.
6. Explorer Club to use South Room for storage, shelter from rain
7. Membership list discussion – tabled for now.
8. Reviewed proposed agenda for Summer Meeting 6/26. No additions. Will be sent in for June newsletter.
9. Nomination committee has list of 8 people that are being asked to consider joining the Board. 1 or 2 have expressed interest. Nominating committee will have conversations with candidates and come up with slate of 4 candidates for election to BOD to be presented at summer meeting. Current Board members Carol Winter, Tom Yuhasey and John Bottger are up for re-election and wanting to stay on.
10. No responses to janitor position posting. Gwen Mattice is willing to help in June if needed after Marie leaves.

New Business:

1. Building use/worship in time of covid. Will continue to hold services in sanctuary if transmission remains in yellow zone. Go back outside starting 3rd Sunday in June (Pride 1st Sunday and Enno at MN UCC annual meeting 2nd Sunday). Zoom option or watching taped service always available. If community goes to red zone transmission, service will be outside or zoom depending on weather
2. New mission statement goal:
 - a. Breakout groups at church service 5/22 to start conversation. 2 questions: 1- what makes this church come alive? 2 – what needs in this community/country/world do we feel called to respond to? Enno will set up small groups and facilitators for 3 groups.
 - b. Further discussion 6/26 after formal summer meeting to look at responses and develop a discovery team of 4-7 folks to work on revising/refining mission statement. Mission can be used then to set priorities for building committee and other groups. Goal is a vote on new mission statement at Winter Meeting 2023.
3. Option for BOD or congregants to attend MN UCC annual meeting June 10-11 in person at St Joseph, MN or via zoom. Peace cranes will be going.

4. Pride sponsorship approved – event liability coverage

Church life brief reports/updates:

- A. Care Team- started during shut down early in pandemic – no active members at present. Pastor Enno visiting elders, families, individuals.
- B. Pastoral Relations – has been meeting monthly
- C. Finance committee - weekly updates to congregation re actual vs budget
- D. Stewardship committee - 2021 campaign complete- Rooted in Love
- E. Children and Youth Life/faith formation – monthly Sunday Fun

- Days, Sunday school, monthly youth group PSJ (pizza and social justice)
- F. Memorial committee
- G. Building and Grounds Team – meeting regularly, Parsonage work day 5/14
- H. Outreach – WOW, collaborations with Arrowhead Indivisible, Pride, Women’s march, Climate meetings, Afghan Resettlement, Earth Day
- I. Worship Committee – meeting monthly
- J. Standing Grievance committee: Delfs, Mattice, Bennett – have not been needed
- K. Food Team- Will be working on food for Pride Events
- L. WOW Team – will need more folks involved – may be a busier season

Decisions reviewed and tasks assigned

Meeting time for June will be 6/14/22 5-7 pm – likely via Zoom – TBD depending on transmission rates

Cook County Pride 2022 - Events

Alliance and allyship, and the significance of Pride celebrations

Saturday, June 4 | 3 PM-4:30pm | At CCHE

<https://www.grandmaraislibrary.org/>

Presented by OutFront MN

Host: Grand Marais Library

Pride March and Event in Harbor Park/Downtown Grand Marais, MN:

Saturday, June 4th | Event starts 5 pm

Pride Event/March

Pronoun Presentation

Monday, June 6th | 1-2pm | Zoom

<https://mycche.org/events/>

Presented by Sara Cole

Host: CCHE

2SLGBTQ+ Allyship: Creating Safer Spaces

Wednesday, June 8th | 5:30-7:15pm | Zoom

<https://mycche.org/events/>

Presented by Outfront

Host: CCHE

GM Library: Drag Queen Story Time

Saturday June 25th | Events Starts at 2:00 pm

Violence Prevention Center Outfront presentation

time/dates TBD

Pride Celebration to start month long celebration June 4th

Dancing, Music, Speeches, and a March will kick off Cook County' celebration of Gay Pride Month in support of our LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors in Harbor Park in Downtown Grand Marais, MN.

This event is for everyone so bring the whole family to celebrate. We plan to have bouncy houses and face painting for the kids along with speakers, dancers and a DJ as well! From Schroeder to Grand Portage, everyone is invited to join in this inclusive celebration. June 4th is just the start of events that go throughout the month. The Public Library, Cook County Higher Education, Drury Lane Books and the VPC are just a few of the organizations planning educational experiences to further our collective understanding of the diversity of queerness in our community.

On Saturday the 4th of June, all are invited to a dance practice at 11am in the YMCA exercise studio if interested in performing at the main event that evening. At noon, sign making and t-shirt decorating will commence at the Grand Marais Art Colony. From there, move on over to Cook County Higher Education at 3pm for a program on Alliance and Allyship related to the PRIDE Celebration. All this building to the 5pm festive celebration at Harbor Park. Expect to hear passionate speakers, engage in spontaneous dancing, and march in unity around downtown Grand Marais.

The most important acts we can engage in are those which communicate that our community is a safe place for all people to be their authentic selves. Whether born here, a transplant, a band member, or a visitor, celebration is a powerful tool to make our places safe for all.

Are you concerned about Climate Change?

The Rooted and Rising Book Group invites the folks of our congregation to consider getting involved in responding to the Climate Crisis by subscribing to, joining and/or donating to some Environmental Organizations working to turn the crisis around. As always, do your due diligence to see if the organization meshes with your concerns and expectations and uses your dollars wisely.

We offer here a representative list of Environmental Organizations to consider. If you support another organization, please let Bruce Tyler know via the church office and we will add it to next month's Newsletter.

MN:

- Google: Environmental groups in MN
- WaterLegacy (Works to prevent and roll back industrial pollution of our waters)
- MN350 and its national 350.org (Bill McKibben's group)
- Friends of the Boundary Waters
- Conservation MN
- NE Minnesotans for Wilderness,
- Save the Boundary Waters
- Friends of the Boundary Waters
- Cook County Local Energy Project (CCLEP)
- Cook County Chapter: MN Interfaith Power and Light (see Enno for details)

National:

- The Climate Reality Project (Al Gore’s group)
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Earth Justice: “We go to court for the Earth”
- Friends of the Earth
- Environmental Working Group: researches environmental impact of consumer products
- Sierra Club
- Cornell Lab Ornithology

We also discussed the possibility of starting a depot for #5 plastics recycling. The Recycling Center is not currently able to collect. It would require periodic trips to Duluth to drop off.

Anyone interested in working on that? Contact Bruce to offer suggestions or help.

JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER TREASURER’S REPORT
From Kevin LeVoir

The April 2022 (latest fully available information) Financial Report shows a total income of \$10,807.71 and expenses of \$11,471.91 (See Detail Below). This means that the Church’s expenses were more than Income by \$664.20.

Income for April 2022	
Pledged Donations	\$ 8,483.33
Non-Pledged Donations	\$ 760.00
Loose Plate Offering	\$ 215.00
Building Use	\$ 898.00
Income from Outside Sources	\$ 449.82
Interest Income	\$ 1.56
	\$ 10,807.71

Expenses for April 2022	
General Expenses (Pastor, Staff, Building, Loan Interest)	\$ 11,254.15
Loan Principle	\$ 217.76
	\$ 11,471.91

The full report for April is available in the Church office.



The [Strengthen the Church](#) Offering supports the efforts of our conferences and the national ministries of the United Church of Christ to support leaders, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Together, we all grow stronger.

For a small conference like the Central Pacific Conference, it's sometimes hard to offer the kinds of tools and resources to our churches that larger conferences do. We don't have a big endowment or other buckets of money to draw on for hosting workshops. At the same time, we believe strongly in paying fair wages for good work, so we know it would be unfair to expect people who've spent years honing their skills and expertise to offer their hard-earned wisdom for free. Thank God for the members and churches who give to Strengthen the Church, because they make it possible for the Central Pacific Conference to offer workshops and live our values regarding fair compensation.

Thanks to the money given to [Strengthen the Church](#), the Central Pacific Conference has been able to offer workshops on End-of-Life Pastoral Care, Practicing Gender Justice, Fostering Generosity, and many other topics that help our clergy and lay people minister more-effectively in their communities. Together, we're able to foster stronger connections among the ministers and lay members who attend these workshops. Together, we nurture spiritual growth in our ministers and lay members who engage exciting topics with skilled facilitators who are justly compensated. [Together, we](#)

[Strengthen the Church.](#) **Rev. Tyler Connoley**

(he/him/his) *Conference Minister* Central Pacific
Conference United Church of Christ

Gifts to the Strengthen the Church Offering
Renew the United Church of Christ.

All Together!





Minnesota Conference
United Church of Christ

Minnesota Conference 60th Annual Meeting June 10-11, 2022

College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, with an online option
Register by June 2

Please read the new Covid guidelines approved by the Conference board of directors on May 7

We have been apart for far too long. We have adjusted, and adjusted again, to ensure the health and well-being of all those we are called to care for. We have stayed home. We have worshipped in front of computer screens. We have wondered, “What next?”

And yet...we have learned how strong we are. We have engaged in new ways to experience community and connect with God. We have drawn from a deep well of spiritual strength and resilience. We have held fast to our faith.

Holding all of that is a lot. Too much, sometimes. Therefore, for this upcoming gathering of the Minnesota Conference, the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group invites you to participate in a meeting focused on Renewal and Restoration. While we will ensure the work of the Conference is done, we will also engage in thoughtful and restorative conversation. We will leave lots of space to catch-up with friends new and old. We will worship. We will laugh. We will pray. And we will rejoice in being together again.

We are excited to hear from our keynoter Diana Butler Bass, theologian and writer who has engaged deeply in the work of finding rest for the weary soul. In addition, we will once again have table-top conversations, worship, have a celebratory banquet, and gather for social time. Workshops led by members of the Minnesota Conference will be offered on Zoom in the days leading up to the meeting.

The intention is this Annual Meeting will be hybrid. While the primary focus will be on gathering in-person, all plenaries and worship will also be streamed on Zoom for delegates to participate from home. While we hope people will choose to join us in-person, we also understand that an online option is of great value to many people. We will be following Conference COVID guidelines.

Workshops:

Ministerial Standing in the MN Conference UCC – Monday, June 6 at 10 am, presented by Committee on Ministry

Ambiguous Parables: Coping Well with Uncertainty – Monday, June 6 at 10 am, presented by Ted Bowman

Becoming a WISE Congregation for Mental Health Diversity and Accessible to ALL – Monday, June 6 at 1:30 pm, presented by Revs. Cannata & Rock

Art Bright, a program for declining memory – Monday, June 6 at 1:30 pm, presented by Paula Benfer of Art Bright

Working Together to Eliminate Medical Debt – Monday, June 6 at 6:30 pm, presented by Rev. Danielle Bartz

Moderator's Gathering and Training – Monday, June 6 at 6:30 pm, presented by Rev. Kelly Gallagher, Associate Conference Minister
Called to welcome the stranger and set the prisoner free – Tuesday, June 7 at 10 am, presented by Diane Haines & Nancy Hassett
Strengthening Our Four-Way Covenants – Tuesday, June 7 at 10 am, presented by Beth Donaldson, Beth Faeth, Bryan Olson
Planned Giving – A Roadmap for Individuals & Churches – Tuesday, June 7 at 1:30 pm, presented by Rev. Andy Debraber
Protecting God's Earth and Its People with Electrification – Tuesday, June 7 at 1:30 pm, presented by Dwight Wagenius
Your Church's Financial Covenant Matters! – Tuesday, June 7 at 6:30 pm, presented by Rudi Anders & Bob Olsen
Is Your Church Struggling or Facing an Uncertain Future – Tuesday, June 7 at 6:30 pm, presented by Rev. Cindy Mueller
Community/Church Based Resettlement – Wednesday, June 8 at 10 am, presented by Dr. Jill Sanders & Rev. Charlotte Frantz
Church Consolidation – Wednesday, June 8 at 1:30 pm, presented by Revs. Itzin & Rock

Hearings

Hearing on a resolution Protecting God's Earth and Its People with Electrification – Wednesday, June 8 at 10 am
Hearing on a Resolution Supporting Public School Educators, Academic Freedom, and Equity Efforts in Schools – Wednesday, June 8 at 1:30 pm
2023 Budget Hearing – Wednesday, June 8 at 6:30 pm
2023 Compensation Guidelines Hearing – Wednesday, June 8 at 6:30 pm

Minister

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Speakers, process announced for September all-church summit

by Staff Reports | published on May 19, 2022

Details are emerging about a major United Church of Christ “summit” set for September.

“The Space Between: The Emerging Church in a Post-Pandemic World” will be held online Sept. 19-21. And people who can come to St. Louis will be able to take part in the summit together, in person.

Registration, open to all, will begin in early June, said UCC Chief Strategy Officer Cheryl Joseph Williams, who is coordinating the summit. She serves on the staff of General Minister and President John Dorhauer, the event’s convener. She said registration fees will be announced at that time.

Williams said the summit’s goals are to:

“Acknowledge what we’ve lived through” during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Recognize the innovative ways we have survived and, in many places and ways, thrived.”

“Capture these ideas and invite one another to work together in further exploration of what fits now, where we need to stretch ourselves, and how we build capacity to resource the church’s needs as it evolves.”

Event format

The event will revolve around eight prerecorded “TED”-style talks, which Williams is calling “provocations.” Each of these — 10 to 25 minutes long and given by a UCC leader — will aim to provoke “ingenuity, creativity and conversation.” Participants will view the talks and respond in large- and small-group conversations via a virtual event platform, Pheedloop.

Registration will open in early June at this web page.

Williams said the event’s planning team will ask participants in advance about “the issues that matter most to them.” She said the event will foster conversation on those topics by using “unconference” techniques, such as world café and lightning talks.

In addition, she said, “informal, self-formed groups” will be available for people “who find themselves drawn together by common issues, ideas, opportunities or challenges.” The event will also include “worship and spiritual reflection components at regular intervals.”

Featured ‘provocateurs’

Two UCC ministers will give keynote presentations:

Opening — Monday, Sept. 19: Jacqui Lewis, senior minister for public theology and transformation, Middle Collegiate Church, New York City.

Closing — Wednesday, Sept. 21: Laura Everett, executive director, Massachusetts

Council of Churches.

In-person participants will gather for those keynotes at the Hilton St. Louis Airport hotel. (The event has been moved to St. Louis from the originally announced host city, Cleveland.)

The middle day, Tuesday, Sept. 20, will feature these ministers as presenters:

Damayanthi Niles, interim academic dean and professor of constructive theology, Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo.

Cameron Trimble, president and CEO, Convergence.

Michael Malcom, founder and executive director, The People's Justice Council and Alabama Interfaith Power & Light.

Juan Carlos Huertas, minister of proclamation and practice of justice, First-Plymouth Church, UCC, Lincoln, Neb.

Patrick Duggan, executive director, Church Building & Loan Fund.

Jamesetta Ferguson, senior pastor, St. Peter's UCC, and president and CEO, MOLO Village Community Development Corporation, Louisville, Ky.

David Vásquez-Levy, president and professor of homiletics, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, Calif.

In-person sessions that day will be at Eden Theological Seminary. Transportation between the Hilton and Eden will be provided. Williams said a room rate of \$125 per night will be available at the Hilton for summit participants who book by Aug. 19.

'Play space for ideas'

As ideas and strategies emerge during the event, participants will discuss "what we each bring to the table to help us get there," Williams said. "We hope to quantify these gifts and access paths to them by end of the summit."

"I believe that the Holy Spirit has shown us that the church can and will thrive under any circumstances," Dorhauer said. "I also believe our leaders have discovered, even through the worst of the pandemic, new pathways to growing the faith.

"It is my hope that over three days in September we will open up a conversation about what we have learned, what we imagine is possible, and what we are willing to commit to as co-creators of the church's future. We have among us leaders who have already designed or imagined ways to build on past successes, and who are willing to incorporate new learnings in order to co-create a vital and life-giving mission for the church of tomorrow. We want to open up the play space for their ideas to flourish with colleagues who are willing to play along with them



SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.
(Ecclesiastes 3)*

A Time to Celebrate....

June Birthdays

6/2 Timothy Beaster
6/2 Tristan Beaster
6/2 Karen Lohn
6/4 Enno Limvere
6/5 Donna Clothier
6/14 Carol Harris
6/14 Glen Hedstrom
6/14 Jared Smith
6/16 Tim Quaife
6/16 Leslie Pederson
6/19 Nancy Cihlar
6/23 Gideon Silence
6/25 Mary Igoe
6/26 Sarah Larsen
6/26 Pete Harris
6/26 Carol Morgen

June Anniversaries

4 Kathy Jo & Greg Thompson
13 Carol & Pete Harris
18 Chuck & Rhonda Silence
18 Art & Beth Kidd
22 Randy & Nicole Bockovich
26 Johnathan & Alyssa Hedstrom



Please help keep us up to date by letting us know if you'd like to be added (or removed) from our Birthday and Anniversary newsletter announcements.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00am AA (FS) 4:30-6:30pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7:00pm Sing-a-long Music Jam	2 10:00am Tai Chi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS) 3:00pm Isaiah Bible Study	3 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch	4 5:00pm Pride March
5 10:00am Hymn Sing 10:30am Worship	6 3-5pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON (FS) 7:00pm Zen Meditation Pastor Enno's day off	7 8:30am-4:30pm Explorers Club 3:00pm Lectionary Study	8 7:00pm Sing-a-long Music Jam	9 8:30am-4:30pm Explorers Club 10:00am Tai Chi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS)	10 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch	11
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> MINNESOTA CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING Pastor Enno Gone </div>						
12 10:00am Hymn Sing 10:30am Worship	13 3-5pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON 7pm Zen meditation Pastor Enno's day off	14 8:30am-4:30pm Explorers Club 3:00pm Lectionary Study 5:00pm Board of Directors 7:00pm MNIPL	15 1:30pm Rooted & Rising 7:00pm Sing-a-long Music Jam Annual Reports DUE	16 8:30am-4:30pm Explorers Club 10:00am Tai Chi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS)	17 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watchh	18
19 10:00am Hymn Sing 10:30am Outdoor Worship 1:30pm Sunday Youth Funday FATHER'S DAY	20 3-5pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON 7pm Zen Meditation Pastor Enno's day off	21 8:30am-4:30pm Explorers Club 1:00pm Clergy Cluster 3:00pm Lectionary Study	22 7:00pm Sing-a-long Music Jam	23 8:30am-4:30pm Explorers Club 10:00am Tai Chi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS) 4:00 Pastor Relations 5:00 Library Board	24 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch	25 Kitchen in use: Stacy Drioullard
26 10:00am Hymn Sing 10:30am Outdoor Worship and Annual Meeting	27 3-5pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON 7:00pm Zen Meditation Pastor Enno's day off	28 8:30am-4:30pm Explorers Club 11:45-1:00 Round Table 3:00pm Lectionary Study July Newsletter Articles DUE	29 7:00pm Sing-a-long Music Jam	30 8:30am-4:30pm Explorers Club 10:00am Tai Chi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS)		

FS—Fireside Room SH—Social Hall MR—Media Room SA—Sanctuary N—Narthex/Lobby SR—South Room LL—Lower Level

BOD—our Church Board of Directors
 CODA—Co-dependents Anonymous

AA—Alcoholics Anonymous ALANON—Families and Friends of Alcoholics

First Congregational United Church of Christ
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Grand Marais, MN 55604-0095

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Purpose and Mission

First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open, inclusive church that exists to worship God and practice the gospel of Jesus Christ. We welcome all people of goodwill who seek to share the love of God and honor the diversity of creation in a spirit of tolerance and flexibility. As a Just Peace Church, we invite all who seek the reign of God to join us in reaching out in healing ministry, working for justice, witnessing for peace and striving to overcome all forms of oppression. We recognize two sacraments: Baptism and Communion

Our Open and Affirming Covenant

We covenant to be an accessible, open and affirming community of faith, committed to peace and justice, reaching out in healing love to all of creation. We exist to worship God and practice the gospel. We welcome all persons, including those of all races, ethnicities, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family structures, faith backgrounds, abilities and economic circumstances to fully share and participate in leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.



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Carol Morgen, Office Manager • Marie Fenstad, Custodian
Brooke Shannon, Bookkeeper